



TACTICAL  
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
ON  
CAVALRY TRAINING.

54,000  
the book  
historians  
I emp  
e a la  
Indian  
collecti  
sch  
is air-  
termi  
utoma

com  
Amer  
for  
nce e  
taff  
he ye  
ceived

oldest  
untry  
It is s  
a whe  
views  
on kin  
fact p  
l to s  
Force  
lity on

s and  
Rese  
rged  
or Stra  
01.12

(Tactical T.24  
Questions and Answers  
ON  
Cavalry Training

1907 )

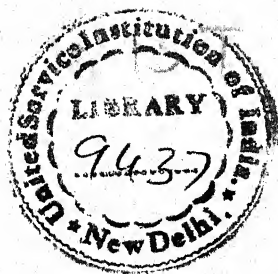
OLD COLLECTION

Not to be taken out

~~COMPILED BY~~

CAPTAIN H. R. GALL  
(LATE 5TH FUSILIERS).

LONDON :  
FORSTER GROOM & CO., LTD.,  
15, CHARING CROSS, S.W.  
1908.

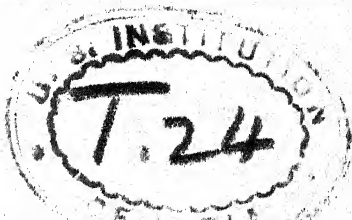




## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE
CHAPTER I.—Manœuvre ... ..	7
„ II.—Reconnaissance and Train- of Scouts... ..	11
„ III.—The Employment of Cavalry in the Field ...	27
„ IV.—Miscellaneous Duties ...	102

o  
ns  
la  
ar  
tic  
-L  
r  
n  
re  
  
m  
ne  
r  
a  
C  
ve  
er  
  
e  
y  
s  
n  
w  
k  
t  
  
o  
C  
  
n  
se  
d  
tr



## TACTICAL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ON CAVALRY TRAINING.

### CHAPTER I.

### CHAPTER V.—MANŒUVRE.

(CAVALRY TRAINING, 1907).

#### GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF MANŒUVRE.

Q. What does Manœuvre represent?

A. The application of drill to the circumstances of contact with the enemy.

Q. In order to prepare troops to manœuvre against an enemy in the field, what is necessary?

A. (a) That all leaders should have an accurate knowledge of the various orders of formation and the uses to which they are put.

(b) That all should be familiar with the evolutions laid down.

(c) That they should be thoroughly drilled to the "Attack," "Rally," "Pursuit," and "Retreat."

Q. What is the main consideration in manœuvre?

A. The tactical idea and the best means to adapt the various conditions to the ground in order to bring about the defeat of the enemy.

Q. What idea should manoeuvre always be conducted upon?

A. Some clear tactical idea, which must be based on correct principles and intelligently understood by all engaged in the operation.

Q. Why is it recommended that the manoeuvre of a small body (a squadron or a regiment) should be the outcome of some exercise in detached duties?

A. Because in war the cavalry fight will nearly always be the climax of some detached operation.

Q. Mention some of the detached duties suitable for the manoeuvre of a small body of cavalry.

A. The concentration of a reconnoitring party—The support of piquets to repulse enterprises against an outpost line—An advanced or rear guard action—Covering a foraging raid, etc.

Q. What must all cavalry leaders understand in order to obtain the best results in war?

A. The rôle that they have to fulfil when fighting in conjunction with the other arms.

Q. What is the connection between training and war?

A. Experience shows that a body of cavalry is really only capable of executing in war what it has practised in peace.

Q. What should always be borne in mind by every commanding officer during the time allotted to him for training his troops?

A. That the object of training is to practice fighting under varying conditions, and that situations should be imagined that give an opportunity of practising every kind of cavalry action, mounted, and dismounted.

Q. Are cut and dried field days where every detail is laid down beforehand recommended?

A. No, they are forbidden as being intolerable.

Q. Why are cut and dried field days not tolerated?

A. Because they are apt to curtail, if not prevent, the exercise of initiative, and during the whole course of training the greatest pains must be taken to develop initiative, not only in officers and leaders, but also in the men.

Q. Why are simple warlike situations advocated in order to illustrate to all ranks the principles of cavalry action?

A. Because, in war, only what is simple achieves success.

Q. What is laid down with regard to dismounting during manœuvre?

A. Horses must be spared as much as possible. Men should be dismounted at every available opportunity (*e.g.*, a squadron should dismount as soon as formed, to wait for others).

Q. What is the rule as to when arms should be drawn?

A. *In an open country and by day* swords need not be drawn, and only those men nearest the enemy (that is to say, the leading men of a patrol or advanced party, march with arms drawn and loaded).

*In an enclosed country, at night, or in foggy weather*, detachments such as reconnoitring, flanking, and other patrols, when in the neighbourhood of the enemy, march with arms drawn and loaded; the leaders with swords drawn.

## CHAPTER II.

### CHAPTER VI.—RECONNAISSANCE AND THE TRAINING OF SCOUTS.

(CAVALRY TRAINING, 1907).

#### GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF RECONNAISSANCE.

Q. What is Reconnaissance?

A. The service of obtaining information either with regard to an enemy or the topographical features and resources of a country.

Q. Why is reconnaissance both more necessary and more difficult than was formerly the case?

A. The increased power of modern fire-arms and the introduction of smokeless powder makes reconnaissance more difficult and at the same time more necessary than ever. Good cavalry, both officers and men, will have many opportunities of distinction in the performance of this all-important duty.

Q. What is the first duty of every commander moving with any force, whatever its size?

A. To endeavour to ascertain what is in

front of him, and at all times protect his main body against surprise.

Q. What considerations regulate the strength, distances, and intervals of reconnoitring parties?

A. They vary according to the conditions of the country, strength of the forces, class of enemy and his armament, time of day, and numerous other considerations.

Q. Name the heads under which reconnaissance may be classed.

A. (a) Strategical.

(b) Tactical.

(c) Protective.

Q. When and with what object is *strategical reconnaissance* required?

A. Before the opposing armies are within striking distance of each other for the purpose of locating the hostile columns, ascertaining their strength and directions of march, and thus affording the commander-in-chief information on which to base his strategical plan of operations.

Q. Who are generally entrusted with strategical reconnaissance?

A. Officers.

Q. When and with what object is *tactical reconnaissance* required?

A. When two forces are within striking distance of each other, for the purpose of discovering the tactical dispositions of the opposing force, and thus furnishing the



commander with information on which to base his tactical plan of operations.

Q. What other description of reconnaissance is included in tactical reconnaissance?

A. Combat patrols are often sent out a few miles on the flank to observe and protect against surprise.

Q. What are the qualifications required of those who are employed on tactical reconnaissance?

A. Officers and scouts must be highly trained, well mounted, have considerable tactical knowledge, be quick and intelligent observers, and be possessed of judgment and determination.

Q. How is reconnaissance usually carried out during an actual fight?

A. By well-mounted officers specially selected to give notice of the enemy's movements.

Q. Can these scouts render any assistance to their own artillery?

A. Yes, by observing the accuracy of its fire and by indicating suitable targets.

Q. When and with what object is *protective reconnaissance* required?

A. By every force at all stages of the operations to ensure the security of the force against hostile enterprises and prevent the enemy gaining information.

Q. In the case of large bodies of troops,

such as an army or group of divisions, on what body of troops does the duty of protective reconnaissance devolve?

A. Detachments are furnished by the protective cavalry.

Q. In the case of smaller bodies, how is this duty of protective reconnaissance carried out.

A. By patrols working in connection with the outposts, advanced or flank guards, or combat patrols.

Q. Do all reconnoitring patrols, whether for strategical, tactical or protective purposes act according to the same principles and methods?

A. Yes; the only variation is in their strength and the distance to which they go.

Q. How should the instructions in reconnaissance be carried out?

A. On uniform lines.

Q. How are the movements of patrols whose objective is to *reconnoitre* the enemy regulated?

A. They regulate their movements according to the positions of the hostile columns.

Q. How are the movements of patrols, flanking detachments, picquets, vedettes, and similar posts of observation for *protective* purposes regulated?

A. With reference to the force covered,

with which they must keep in communication.

Q. What should each patrol understand clearly?

A. Whether it is sent out to reconnoitre the enemy, or for protective purposes. The two systems must be kept separate.

#### GAINING INFORMATION.

Q. Should officers and scouts be trained during peace to know what points to notice and what to reject in obtaining information?

A. Yes.

Q. How may information be obtained?

A. By questioning the inhabitants, prisoners, and others; or by tapping telegraph wires, taking letters and newspapers from post-offices.

Q. What other method of deducing information may be acquired if scouts are practised in doing so in peace?

A. From certain signs, such as tracks, dust, fires, deserted camp-grounds, uniforms, &c.

Q. What precaution should be taken when questioning prisoners and hostile inhabitants?

A. They should be questioned separately out of hearing of others.

Q. Is it desirable to give the impression

that you know more about the enemy than you really do?

A. Yes, it is desirable in many cases to give the impression that you know the answers to many of the questions, but are putting them to test the truth of the speaker. The method to adopt depends on the class of individual being questioned.

Q. With regard to numbers of troops reported by inhabitants, what should scouts be careful to guard against?

A. Exaggerated reports, people not accustomed to see large numbers of troops are apt to exaggerate unintentionally.

Q. Is it desirable that scouts should be acquainted with the usual formations of the enemy and the normal strength of his different organisations of troops, units, etc?

A. For purposes of estimating numbers correctly it is very desirable.

Q. How many cavalry, artillery and infantry, respectively, if marching along a road, would pass a point per minute approximately in their normal formations on the line of march?

A. Cavalry at a walk, in sections ...	120
Cavalry at a trot, in sections ...	240
Artillery guns, or wagons, at a walk .....	5
Infantry, in fours .....	200

INSTRUCTION IN RECONNAISSANCE AND  
THE TRAINING OF SCOUTS.

Q. What is the most important of the individual duties of every cavalryman?

A. To be able to reconnoitre, and in order to do so he must be trained.

Q. What is done with those men who show special ability in reconnoitring?

A. They will be further trained to become scouts or despatch riders.

Q. What should be the minimum number of trained scouts in every regiment?

A. 1 Officer, scout leader.

1 Sergeant-scout.

8 Regimental or 1st-class scouts.

16 Squadron or 2nd class scouts.

Q. How often are scouts classified and distinguished?

A. They are classified annually as 1st and 2nd class, and badges will be awarded for one year.

Q. In addition to the scouts, how many trained despatch riders should there be in each squadron?

A. At least four.

Q. What special training is given to despatch riders?

A. They are trained to find their way across country with messages (verbal as well as written) and also in details necessary for acting as orderlies.

Q. How should scouts be trained?

A. Scouting cannot be acquired from books. A scout must be carefully selected as being zealous and intelligent and encouraged to feel that he is credited with good judgment, and is trusted by his officers to carry out his work honestly; he should combine great pluck with great cunning, and should be encouraged to feel that the greatest personal credit and honour are open to him as the result of his work, whatever may be his rank.

Q. What must every second-lieutenant be instructed in before he can be considered fit for promotion, and what qualification is required of him?

A. He must be fully instructed in the details of the work of an ordinary scout, and should qualify as a 1st class scout.

Q. What constitutes the course of instruction for the training of scouts?

A. (a). *Ability to find the way.*—First with a map; second by memory of the map; third by knowledge of stars, sun, and compass; fourth by landmarks; fifth by questioning natives of the country.

(b). *Use of eye and ear.*—Noting small signs; distant sounds; and their meanings.

(c). *Concealment.*—Selecting background to suit the colour of his

clothing, &c.; concealment of horse; avoiding sky line.

(d). *Tracking*.—Horses, men, wheels, &c.

(e). *Getting across country* — and judging distance by time by night as well as by day should be practised.

(f). *Reporting*.—Reports should be short and to the point—written reports to be in telegraphic language—verbal reports, wording to be thought out beforehand—Diagrams and freehand sketches.

(g). *Sketching*.—Sketching a piece of simple country; drawing map from memory; estimating heights.

(h). *Horsemanship*.—Horse management, water, food, rest, detection and treatment of lameness, prevention and treatment of galls, knee-haltering, linking, and rounding-up horses, &c.

Q. Does the course of instruction for the training of scouts apply also to the training of every cavalry soldier?

A. Yes; they will, however, only be instructed in the elements of the course.

Q. What is the best way of developing scouting efficiency amongst the men?

A. Scouting competitions and practice,

and the practice of long patrols, which comprise in their performance most of the intelligence required of a scout.

Q. How are young soldiers and less intelligent men made self-reliant?

A. By being sent out alone, with instructions to carry out certain definite missions.

Q. What is the usual system of training young soldiers to patrol?

A. They are sent out not less than 40 miles, provided with a map and with a list of places they are to visit, and with a request to a householder at each place to sign the list as a proof that the patrol has been there.

#### **Despatch Riders.**

Q. What points should despatch riders be practised in?

A. In forming "connecting posts" between contact squadrons and the main body passing messages verbal as well as written, and registering the despatches as they go through, finding the shortest way across country, they should also know the composition of staffs and bodies of troops to make them useful orderlies for staff officers.

#### **Action of a Reconnoitring Patrol.**

Q. Should reconnoitring patrols detailed to obtain information as to the movements



and dispositions of the enemy's columns avoid fighting?

A. Yes, and endeavour to obtain information by stratagem.

Q. Is there any exception to this rule?

A. Tactical reconnoitring patrols may find it necessary to drive back hostile patrols engaged on similar missions; when this course is expedient the patrols should be suitably supported; also it may sometimes be expedient to capture one of the enemy.

Q. What should be the strength of reconnoitring patrols?

A. As small as possible, but they should contain sufficient men to ensure that the information gained is transmitted without delay to the superior commander to whom reports have to be furnished.

Q. In starting to carry out a reconnoissance, what should the commander of a patrol know?

A. (a). On what points information is specially required.

(b). Approximately to what distance and in what direction he has to go.

(c). About how long he may expect to be away.

(d). Where he is to send in reports and by what means.

(e). What is known of the enemy.

(f). The probable moves of his own main body and of other detachments.

Q. Who gives the above information to the commander of a patrol?

A. The officer sending it out.

Q. What information should the commander of a patrol give to his scouts when sending them out?

A. The same kind of instructions as he himself has received.

Q. Is the leader of a patrol given a free hand in carrying out his instructions?

A. Yes.

Q. After receiving his instructions and forming his plan of action to meet them, what is the first thing that the leader of a patrol should do?

A. Explain the whole, or as much as may be desirable, to his subordinates, so that every man will know how to carry on the duty in the event of accidents.

Q. Should untrained men be employed on reconnaissance other than protective?

A. None but trained scouts and despatch riders will as a rule be employed.

Q. What is the best guide for the movement and conduct of a reconnoitring party?

A. Common sense.

Q. Is there any fixed rule for the formation of a patrol or party for reconnaissance?

A. No, but it should be arranged so as to

be of the best form for obtaining information, and for avoiding capture.

Q. When reconnaissance cannot be carried out by day what should be done if at all feasible?

A. The patrol or scouts must be moved by night up to the neighbourhood of the enemy, and then observe him from a concealed position by day.

Q. How may the enemy's scouts sometimes be captured?

A. By lying out for them in likely places at night and early dawn.

Q. When moving in an enemy's country by night are the men of a patrol allowed to strike matches or smoke?

A. No.

Q. What precautions should be taken when moving by day to avoid being seen by the enemy or by the inhabitants?

A. Scouts should move as little as possible on the roads. They should keep in the shadows as much as possible by day or at night. They should be careful to have nothing bright or polished in their equipment.

Q. If a patrol or scout is seen what should be done?

A. The enemy should be deceived as to the commander's intentions.

Q. Should small reconnoitring parties rest all together in one place?

A. They should remain scattered, so that all will not be captured if suddenly attacked.

Q. What is the rule about shifting the positions of night bivouacs?

A. Their position should invariably be changed after a short stay, and as a rule shortly after darkness has set in.

Q. Should the men of a patrol carry written instructions or private diaries or papers such as might give information to an enemy if they are captured?

A. No, but bogus notes may be carried for the purpose of misleading an enemy in such an event.

Q. What precautions should be taken by a patrol on approaching any place likely to harbour an ambush, such as a wood, ravine, village?

A. If it cannot be passed by a flank move scouts must be sent forward or round it before getting the patrol within its reach.

Q. How is the work of advanced scouts in feeling the way for a patrol best done?

A. By getting quickly from one good look-out point to another, and then keeping hidden while they take a good look round to see if the ground is clear for another forward move.

#### Contact with the Enemy.

Q. If the enemy is not found where he

was expected, or *vice-versâ*, what is the first thing that the reconnoitrer should do?

A. Think for himself what his commander would like him to do; in the former case, information to this effect, usually called "negative information," should be sent back, giving the hour of the visit, and the scouts should push on until they find the enemy. When the enemy has been found, he should, as a rule, be followed up. Information as to his strength, dispositions, and moves should then be sent into the support.

Q. Why must patrols be particular not to act aggressively unless with the object of getting a prisoner?

A. Because doing so generally calls attention to their presence, which above all things they must avoid.

Q. What would be the usual course on sighting an enemy's patrol?

A. To lie hid and let it go by, keeping a look-out for capturing any orderlies it may send back with messages.

Q. What is the sole duty of patrols?

A. To gather and *send* back information.

Q. If a patrol is cut off by the enemy what should it do?

A. Make every effort to get away, so that at least one may arrive back with the information already gained.

Q. If only threatened, what should the patrol do?

A. Spread out and edge away until night comes on, if necessary breaking up and rallying again at the last halting place or other pre-arranged spot.

Q. In order to find his way back, what should every member of a patrol notice?

A. All land marks, by which means he need not adhere actually to the road by which he came when returning to the rallying point or to the support or main body.

Q. Why is it desirable to go back a different way if possible?

A. To avoid ambuscades.

Q. When should scouts work in pairs?

A. When they are sent out to a long distance.

Q. When working in pairs what precaution should they take?

A. They should hardly ever keep near to each other.

Q. Should scouts and patrols always be prepared to be out for several days?

A. Yes, and day and night must be alike to them for working or for resting.

Q. Should men be accustomed to work at night?

A. Men who are accustomed, by practice in peace-time to work at night will succeed in scouting where others will fail or lose their lives.

## CHAPTER III.

# CHAPTER VII.—THE EMPLOYMENT OF CAVALRY IN THE FIELD.

(CAVALRY TRAINING, 1907).

### GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE EMPLOYMENT OF CAVALRY.

Characteristics of the Arm and Principles of  
its Action.

Q. Why is the value of cavalry greater now than at any previous period?

A. Because the wide fronts on which armies now operate, and the large number of troops that are employed, make it more difficult than formerly to make any change in dispositions that have once been made. Advanced reconnaissance to clear up the strategical situation, and protective reconnaissance to cover the movements of one's own army is therefore more necessary than ever.

Q. Have railways increased or diminished the necessity for cavalry?

A. The great dependence of modern

armies upon railways have made commanders most susceptible to raids against their communications.

Q. Have cavalry still a rôle to play in a general engagement? If so, state some of the reasons.

A. In co-operation with the other arms frequent opportunities for successful cavalry action, both mounted and dismounted, will occur. The heavy nervous strain to which infantry are subjected in modern battles, and the extended order in which they now fight make them susceptible to sudden and unforeseen attacks of mounted men.

Q. Is the rôle of cavalry in pursuit or to cover a retreat as indispensable as ever it was?

A. Yes, it will materially assist both in reaping the fruits of victory, or in diminishing the consequences of defeat.

Q. What is the characteristic of cavalry?

A. The action of man and horse combined.

Q. What is it that gives to cavalry its great moral and actual effect?

A. Its power to move with rapidity and cover very long distances, and to combine both attack and surprise.

Q. Why is cavalry more independent of the other arms than formerly?

A. The fact that it is now armed with a



long range and rapid firing rifle. Squadrons are now able to attack on foot *when the situation imperatively demands it.*

Q. What arm is best suited to co-operate with cavalry?

A. Machine guns.

Q. What constitutes the essence of the cavalry spirit?

Q. Holding the balance correctly between fire power and shock action. Thorough efficiency in dismounted tactics can be attained without losing confidence in shock action.

Q. What should always be the tactics of cavalry?

A. It is essentially offensive.

Q. What is necessary to enable cavalry to carry out its rôle with success?

A. It must be inspired by dash, and every individual must have implicit confidence in his leader, his horse, and his weapons. Cavalry which will not be enterprising and daring is worse than useless.

#### The Command and Leading of Cavalry.

Q. With cavalry what is the most important factor in success?

A. The personality of the commander.

Q. What should a cavalry commander's orders be based on?

A. A general consideration of circumstances.

Q. When once his squadrons have been launched what must a cavalry commander rely on for influencing the combat?

A. His intact reserve, either to confirm his initial success, or to cover a withdrawal.

Q. What do the functions of cavalry comprise, whether acting strategically or in tactical combination with the other arms?

A. Both fighting and reconnaissance.

Q. What are the arms for cavalry?

A. The sword or lance, supplemented with the rifle when the tactical situation is distinctly favourable to its use.

Q. In order to be efficient leaders, what must all cavalry officers study to possess?

A. A thorough knowledge of the principles which govern the movements of the other arms in the field. The seniors, in order that they may better direct their men; the juniors in order that they may better interpret the movements of the enemy.

**Necessity of Economizing Horseflesh in the  
Field.**

Q. What should all cavalry men be taught thoroughly to appreciate with regard to their horses?

A. The value of the horse and the power that it confers on the army. A cavalry man unless he is well mounted is an expensive and useless encumbrance in the field.

Q. What is the best test of this knowledge?

A. When they understood how to use their horses to the utmost when occasion requires, and how to spare them in every possible way at other times.

Q. What are the regulations about the weight to be carried on the horse?

A. Articles of saddlery, arms, ammunition, equipment and clothing carried on the horse are strictly limited to what is actually necessary, and no unauthorized article is to be added in the field except under most exceptional circumstances.

Q. What principle should regulate the length of marches?

A. The daily march should be the lowest compatible with the attainment of the object.

Q. What distance should the average practice march not exceed?

A. Twenty-five miles; in practice anything over 20 miles is a considerable performance, and much more cannot be demanded for any length of time without considerable casualties resulting. To keep horses in good training they should not be strained to their utmost capacity.

Q. What should be carefully avoided when on the line of march with a view to keeping the horses fit?

A. Overloading and undue rapidity of movement.

Q. When only should squadrons move off at a very early hour?

A. The night's rest of horses should only be disturbed under exceptional circumstances. "The habitual disturbance of the night's rest is more to be feared than the enemy."

Q. With regard to food for their horses, what should all subordinate commanders in the field take every opportunity of doing?

A. Supplementing the grain ration they carry by additional food for their horses.

Q. When should men dismount?

A. Frequently to lead their horses up and down grades.

Q. Why should horses be trained to lead easily?

A. In order to prevent straggling and excessive lengthening of the column.

Q. What distance should be maintained between squadrons on the line of march?

A. From 25 to 50 yards according to circumstances.

Q. How should alterations in pace be taken up?

A. By squadrons in succession at the same point at which the next squadron in front altered its pace.

Q. What does this method prevent?

A. Hurrying up from the rear.

Q. When it is necessary for the whole column to advance simultaneously at the trot what is done?

A. The cavalry commander will sound the "trot" and regimental trumpeters will repeat the call.

Q. What is the method as regards halts?

A. Halts are ordered at the discretion of the officer commanding the column. As a rule, a halt of five to ten minutes should be ordered about half-an-hour after starting, and subsequent halts usually after every hour of marching.

Q. How may the fatigues of detached duties be lessened?

A. By using cyclists, when possible, instead of mounted messengers.

Q. In the case of the strategical cavalry how may horseflesh be saved?

A. By a rational system of communication towards the rear.

Q. Should bivouacking be avoided?

A. Yes, as far as possible. When camping in temperate or cold climates as many horses as possible should be brought under cover at night.

Q. Should horses be kept saddled at night?

A. No; they should always be unsaddled, as rest for them is absolutely necessary. (You can do a good deal with a tired man, but next to nothing with a tired horse).

Q. How can the disadvantages of unreadiness for action be minimized.

A. By suitable arrangements to guard against surprise.

Q. May it be advisable to withdraw troops at night from the vicinity of the enemy in order to secure a night's rest?

A. Yes, under certain circumstances, but care must be taken to maintain contact with the enemy; the slightly increased distance to march the next day is as nothing compared to the advantage of greater security and the rest resulting from it.

Q. When a cavalry force is behind a river, a wood in which movements are confined to roads, a marsh or other obstacle, can it go into billets without anxiety?

A. Yes, provided the passages of the obstacle are held with advanced posts.

Q. When may the first line of cavalry billets be so organised as to serve the purpose of a line of protection for the rest of the force?

A. When a line of villages is occupied each village may be hastily prepared for dismounted defence.

Q. If attacked under these circumstances at night, what will be the best thing, as a rule, to do?

A. Defend the billeting area by dismounted fire rather than attempt to concentrate.

Q. Ought cavalry, as a rule, to be able to secure themselves in billets without risk?

A. Yes, if the patrols are alert, and an effective system of defence dismounted be arranged.

Q. What must cavalry always be prepared to do in critical situations?

A. Not only will it have to bivouac, but to stand to its horses ready to mount at a moment's notice.

Q. With regard to the all-important question of subsistence on which the power of operating chiefly depends in the field, what should every cavalry commander endeavour to ensure?

A. The timely arrival of supply columns, and more especially the systematic utilization of the resources of the district in which he is operating.

Q. Which system, the supply column or the requisition system does cavalry when operating at a distance from their main body most frequently have to rely on?

A. The requisition, i.e., the resources of the district.

#### THE STRATEGICAL AND TACTICAL ACTION OF CAVALRY.

The Sub-division of Cavalry, and the nature of  
Duties to be performed.

Q. What are the functions of cavalry, and what do they comprise?

A. They are both strategical and tactical ; they comprise the service of independent *strategical* action and *protection*, whilst in co-operation with the other arms cavalry form an integral *tactical* portion of the fighting machine.

Q. Into how many bodies is the cavalry of an army divided according to the nature of the duties required of it ?

A. Into three bodies :—

- (a). *Independent or strategical cavalry* for strategical exploration under the instructions of the commander-in-chief.
- (b). *Protective cavalry* for the provision of the first line of security, under the direct orders of the commander of the force they are protecting.
- (c). *Divisional cavalry*, forming part of a division of all arms, for scouting in connection with the infantry advanced, rear, or flank guards or outposts ; or for communication purposes.

Q. In order to gain full value from the arm what is the fundamental principle that a commander-in-chief must clearly determine ?

A. What he requires of his cavalry, and accordingly group units in a suitable manner and in sufficient numerical strength.



Q. What is the *strategic rôle of cavalry*?

A. To obtain information as to the dispositions and strength of the hostile army. In order to do this it will push into the zone separating the two armies in the direction in which it is required to reconnoitre.

Q. What is the first duty of the independent cavalry?

A. To obtain a victory over the hostile cavalry. It will thus gain freedom to carry out its ultimate rôle of reconnaissance.

Q. What does its success depend upon?

A. A vigorous mounted offensive in co-operation with the guns.

Q. On such occasions why is dismounted action not advocated?

A. Because to check the hostile cavalry is not sufficient; it must be defeated and driven in.

Q. When this has been accomplished what will the independent cavalry be in a position to do?

A. Not only to obtain information as to the hostile main columns, but will also be free to act with effect in accordance with the general plan of campaign.

Q. What is the next duty of the independent cavalry?

A. To concentrate, if it has not already done so, and break through the line of hostile covering troops and discover the whereabouts of the enemy's principal

columns, and the direction of their march.

Q. Does the defeat of the enemy's independent cavalry secure the army against hostile enterprises?

A. To a certain extent; but in order to carry out its *rôle* of strategic reconnaissance the victorious cavalry must have complete liberty of action and must not be tied to the army.

Q. Give an instance of what may frequently happen if the independent cavalry follows up its *rôle*.

A. It may have to work round the adversary's flank, and thus uncover the front of its own army.

Q. To whom, then, is the duty of covering the main columns usually entrusted to?

A. To the *protective* cavalry which will adapt its movements to suit those of the force covered.

Q. What is the primary *rôle* of the protective cavalry in the initial stages of the campaign?

A. Defensive; but as the opposing armies get into tactical touch, it may be necessary for it to concentrate and drive back bodies of the opposing cavalry, in order to discharge its duty of protection, or to clear up the *tactical* situation.

Q. When may the independent cavalry and the protective cavalry co-operate directly in the duty of protection?

A. In the event of the enemy's cavalry being still undefeated, when the necessity for driving it back will culminate in a cavalry combat; and success will only be attained by a timely concentration of all available squadrons of sufficient force and the assumption of a vigorous offensive.

Q. Wherein does the tactical distribution of cavalry for *protection* and that for *strategical reconnaissance* differ?

A. The *protection* of an army requires a wide distribution of front and subsequent sub-division of force, the *strategical reconnaissance* demands concentration of force.

Q. Whether the object be to protect or to reconnoitre, what must the commander of every body of cavalry always be prepared to do?

A. Fight.

Q. As the final phase of the operations culminating in a general engagement draws on what becomes of the strategical and protective cavalry?

A. They will co-operate with the other arms in securing the defeat of the hostile army.

Q. In this stage of operations what must be the first objective of the cavalry?

A. To gain the mastery over the enemy's cavalry, for until this is accomplished they will be unable to undertake other missions successfully.

Q. What will the subsequent employment of the cavalry depend upon?

A. Circumstances, but sustained pursuit must never be lost sight of.

Q. How many kinds of pursuit are there?

A. Two, viz., direct (or tactical) and strategical.

Q. Explain the difference between them.

A. Direct pursuit will be checked when the retreating army has rallied, in which case strategical pursuit may be undertaken, and will consist in strategical action directed against the enemy's bases in rear, or lines of communication.

Q. What is considered to be discreditable to the cavalry arm if it is fairly represented in a general engagement in country which is not confined to mountain districts?

A. A victory which has been gained without cavalry having contributed its full share, and a defeat in which cavalry has not sacrificed itself regardless of loss.

Q. What are the duties of *Divisional Cavalry*?

A. It assists the infantry in the immediate protection of the division by providing men for patrolling in connection with the advanced, flank, and rear guards and outposts; maintains connection with the protective cavalry; and furnishes escorts, orderlies, and despatch riders for purposes of inter-communication generally.

THE INDEPENDENT OR STRATEGICAL  
CAVALRY.

General Principles of Action.

Q. Whilst the opposing armies are at a distance from each other what is the primary duty of the independent cavalry?

A. To gain touch with the enemies' columns.

Q. Having done this, what should it endeavour to find out and report on regarding the enemy's columns?

A. The front and depth they cover, the direction of their march, and their approximate strength.

Q. What advantage will the main army derive from this information?

A. It will clear up the strategical situation and afford the main army freedom of action.

Q. What special missions may be assigned to the independent cavalry?

A. Raiding the enemy's communications, hampering his movements, or seizing important strategical points.

Q. As a rule, what will have to be done before any important strategical objectives can be gained?

A. The enemy's cavalry will usually be encountered and will have to be defeated, i.e., if it is in the zone in which the force is operating, the independent cavalry should

not allow itself to be diverted from its main objective by seeking out the enemy's cavalry outside the zone in which it is to operate, merely for the sake of defeating the latter.

Q. From whom does the commander of the independent cavalry receive full instructions as to the mission he is to fulfil?

A. From the commander-in-chief.

Q. Is the commander of the independent cavalry allowed complete freedom of action in carrying out the mission allotted to him?

A. Yes; he may accomplish it by such means as he may think desirable.

Q. What regulates the distance to which the independent cavalry operates in front of the army?

A. It depends upon the width and depth of that army, and the time it will require to execute any operation depending upon the reports from the independent cavalry. The longer the time required by the army to change direction or concentrate for battle the further to the front must the cavalry be advanced.

Q. What does the service of reconnaissance necessitate on the part of the independent cavalry regarding its dispositions?

A. A certain amount of dispersion.

Q. Does this dispersion prevent concentration?

A. It must not be forgotten that tactical

success cannot be achieved without the concentration of sufficient force at the right time and place. A commander will thus have to decide how far it is desirable for him to concentrate his command to achieve his object.

**Service of Reconnaissance.**

Q. Whilst opposing armies are at a distance from each other should strategical and tactical reconnaissance duties be kept distinct?

A. Yes, the duties of these reconnoitring detachments are quite distinct, and must never be confused.

Q. How do strategical reconnoitring detachments carry out their duties?

A. They avoid all fighting and act by cunning and stratagem.

Q. To whom should their conduct generally be entrusted?

A. To officers.

Q. What information regarding the enemy should be given to them?

A. All available information.

Q. Should they be told the intentions of the superior commander?

A. Yes.

Q. In what direction should reconnoitring patrols as a rule proceed?

A. Along the probable lines of the enemy's approach.

Q. What considerations regulate the strength of these detachments?

A. They should be limited; for if large they will find it difficult to escape observation; on the other hand, they should be sufficiently strong to admit of two or three reports being sent back.

Q. How many men should be sent with a message?

A. At least two men, each of whom should carry a copy.

Q. Are patrols usually directed to return to their detachments within certain time limits?

A. Yes, their reliefs, however, being sent out before such limit expires.

Q. What do *tactical reconnoitring patrols* in the first place direct their attention to?

A. Gaining touch with and obtaining information as to the enemy's cavalry.

Q. Do these patrols ever act aggressively?

A. It may be necessary for them to drive back hostile patrols engaged on similar missions, in order to establish a moral superiority from the outset.

Q. When this course is expedient should the patrols be supported?

A. Certainly. All troops when acting aggressively should, if possible, be supported.



Q. When are *contact troops or squadrons* sent out, and for what purposes?

A. Whenever support is required by patrols, or when an enemy who is several marches distant has to be observed for any length of time, whole troops or squadrons (called contact troops or squadrons) will be sent out to ensure permanent tactical observation of the enemy.

Q. What other purposes do these contact units serve?

A. They will serve as a patrol reserve, as a support to the patrols, and as a collecting station for information.

Q. With regard to the enemy, what is their duty?

A. To maintain touch with him (as their name implies) day and night.

Q. Are they relieved?

A. From time to time as may be necessary.

Q. In carrying out reconnaissance duties what are the principles to be observed?

A. (a). The commander of a reconnoitring unit will take as his objective the most *distant* point about which information is required.

(b). The composition and strength of a reconnoitring detachment must vary according to the difficulty of the task and the distance to be covered.

- (c). A reconnoitring party should not be tied down to any particular road, nor should it, as a rule, be directed to reconnoitre a zone of country; its march depends solely on its objective and on the enemy.
- (d). The greatest economy is necessary in the use of detachments for secondary purposes.
- (e). When it is necessary to support reconnoitring patrols with one or more contact squadrons the latter should remain as concentrated as possible, and any detachment made from them should be limited to what is absolutely necessary.
- (f). On occasions a mass of cavalry may be pushed forward to serve as a centre of resistance or as a reservoir for replenishing reconnoitring bodies further to the front.
- (g). Tactical units, or complete portions of them should invariably be detailed, and the character of each detachment should be suitable for the nature of the work to be performed.
- (h). Horseflesh must be economised by great moderation in the pursuit of non-essentials.

**Transmission of Information.**

Q. Who is specially charged with the duty of maintaining communication between the independent cavalry and Army Headquarters?

A. An officer of the General Staff.

Q. In order to save delay what should be done to transmit all really important information?

A. Arrangements should be made to transmit it direct from the reconnoitring detachments to Army Headquarters as well as through the usual channel.

Q. With regard to communicating with Army Headquarters what information should be furnished to officers commanding reconnoitring detachments?

A. The means available for doing so.

Q. What are the methods used in transmitting information?

A. They will depend upon circumstances, but it will usually be carried out by despatch riders on horseback or on bicycles, signallers, field telegraph, or wireless telegraphy, occasionally supplemented by the permanent telegraph system and carrier pigeons when available.

Q. When is the conveyance of reports by individual despatch riders only possible?

A. Under limited conditions, and can only be depended on within districts fully controlled by one's own troops.

Q. How should connection between contact squadrons and the main body of the independent cavalry be arranged for?

A. By relays, whose strength must depend on the extent to which the district through which they will have to pass has been cleared of the enemy.

Q. In addition to the transmission of information to the rear, what must be arranged?

A. A system for communicating between all portions of the independent cavalry, whenever it is not concentrated.

#### Dispositions when on the March.

Q. How should the formation of the main body of the independent cavalry on the march be regulated?

A. It should be adapted to marching with the least possible fatigue to horses consistent with adequate control and power of concentration.

Q. May the force march in several columns?

A. Yes, if desirable, in which case each column will be responsible for its own protection both on the march and at the halt.

Q. In addition to the reconnoitring bodies sent out by independent cavalry what other detachments will be sent out for protection?

A. Advanced guards and flanking parties.

**Advanced Guard.**

Q. What is the definite objective of the advanced guard?

A. To gain time for the main body to get into formation for fighting.

Q. How should the advanced guard proceed to fulfil this duty?

A. It should not maintain any uniform rate of march, but should advance rapidly from position to position, or from defile to defile, taking care to be beyond any defile at the moment the head of the main body reaches the entrance.

Q. What considerations regulate the strength of the advanced guard?

A. It depends on the time it may be required to resist; this again must depend to a certain extent on the nature of the country.

Q. When may horse artillery be attached to the advanced guard?

A. When considerable resistance is anticipated, but, as a rule, the artillery should be kept concentrated with the main body.

**Protection of the Flanks.**

Q. Should cavalry when in column of route guard against being surprised on a

flank by hostile cavalry, and against coming unexpectedly under artillery fire?

A. Yes, although when in column dispositions for fighting can be more rapidly made towards a flank than towards the front.

Q. How can the flanks be best secured?

A. By pushing out a few patrols to the limit of effective artillery range on the flanks.

Q. How do these patrols move?

A. Parallel to the march of the column along some well-defined feature, or along a road from which observation points can be easily reached.

Q. When the country is difficult what should be done?

A. Flanking parties should be worked by sections; one detachment holding the ground until the main body has passed, another detachment meanwhile taking up a flanking position further in advance.

#### Transport.

\* Q. Should the whole of the first line of transport accompany units of the independent cavalry?

A. No, it is inadvisable, and such portions as are not essential for immediate action should be grouped, and follow the fighting column at a suitable distance.

**Approach March when within Striking Distance  
of the Hostile Cavalry.**

**Q.** What will be the general disposition of a brigade or division of cavalry when within striking distance of the hostile cavalry?

**A.** An advanced guard and a main body with two wings.

**Q.** Which body regulates the pace and by whose instructions?

**A.** The advanced guard, the movements of which will be regulated by the instructions of the cavalry commander.

**Duties of the unit acting as Advanced Guard.**

**Q.** What constitutes a defile in a broad sense for cavalry?

**A.** Any ground which, although the force can move over it in concentrated formation, prevents cavalry from manœuvring.

**Q.** How does this fact affect the duties of an advanced guard to a body of cavalry acting independently?

**A.** It should always endeavour to push forward in order to seize favourable points of manœuvre.

**Q.** When there is a possibility of surprising the enemy what should be done with regard to the normal advanced guard detachment?

**A.** A regular advanced guard should be

replaced by *combat patrols*. In order to escape detection, and in view of the proximity of the enemy.

Q. Who should these patrols be accompanied by?

A. A few intelligent despatch riders to bring back information.

Q. Why should specially intelligent despatch riders be selected on these occasions?

A. Because their messages will probably be verbal and there will be no time for writing.

Q. What men should be selected for this special duty of combat patrols?

A. Only very quick, active, and well-mounted men are of use for this duty, for they must see and appreciate the meaning of what they see without hesitation.

Q. Who may sometimes be selected for this duty?

A. Officers in pairs.

Q. Why is it so important to send out combat patrols *at once* as soon as the force concentrates for the "approach march," although many of the original reconnoitring detachments may not yet have rejoined?

A. Because the objective of the patrols is now more precise and definite, i.e., they must ensure that the cavalry commander has complete information and freedom of action, whereas the objective of the first



reconnoitring detachments was of a more general kind.

Q. What is done sometimes in order to conceal the march of the main body?

A. It may sometimes be necessary to drive back the hostile patrols.

Q. How is this done?

A. One or more squadrons may be detached to the front or flanks to support the combat patrols.

Q. What other use have these squadrons?

A. They define and limit to a certain extent the battle area.

Q. When should these squadrons rejoin the division?

A. On their own initiative the moment their task has been accomplished.

Q. Why should all detachments rejoin the brigade or division, or unit from which they are sent out as soon as their task has been accomplished?

A. In order that the force may be as strong as possible at the decisive point.

Q. As the opposing forces get into close touch what becomes of the normal advanced guard?

A. It may be dispensed with, for the cavalry will be concentrated and ready for action.

Q. Does the advanced guard always rejoin the division like other detachments when its task has been accomplished?

A. Occasionally an advanced guard can be employed with advantage when in close touch with the enemy. For instance, it may be given a manœuvring *rôle* and operate so as to deceive the enemy by drawing him in one direction while the mass of the force attacks unexpectedly from another.

Q. Should an advanced guard commander adopt a manœuvring *rôle* on his own initiative?

A. Not without the direct orders of the cavalry commander.

#### Reconnaissance of the Ground.

Q. How must the country as a whole be reconnoitred sufficiently far ahead to enable a commander to seize favourable ground for action, or at least to prevent him from engaging his brigades on unfavourable ground?

A. One or more special officers should be entrusted with this duty.

Q. Why cannot this duty be performed by the combat patrols?

A. They have a sufficiently difficult task in observing the enemy.

#### Liberty of Action toward the Flanks.

Q. How are the flanks observed when the opposing forces get into touch?

A. One or two small combat patrols, as in the earlier phase of the operations,

should move a few miles on the flank to observe beyond the neighbouring rises, and so protect the force from surprise.

Q. Combat patrols have two distinct characters—what are they?

A. First, "*Offensive*" patrols sent in the direction one expects to find the enemy, and secondly, "*defensive*" patrols sent towards the flank from whence the enemy is *not* expected to appear.

#### Formation of March.

Q. What are the considerations which should decide the formation of march for a force of cavalry?

A. The force must be well concentrated, but with sufficient intervals between squadrons to give elasticity for passing over uneven ground.

Q. What does the actual formation depend upon?

A. The number of regiments in each brigade and the number of brigades in the division.

#### The Position of the Artillery and Machine Guns.

Q. Where does the artillery, as a rule, move?

A. Massed on the flank of the cavalry.

Q. Should there be a road running in close proximity to and in the same direction

as the general advance may it be used by the artillery?

A. Yes.

Q. At this phase where are the machine guns usually placed, and what special duty can they perform?

A. They will usually accompany the artillery, to whom they may act as escort when necessary.

#### Transport.

Q. Before beginning the "approach" march when within striking distance of the hostile cavalry what directions should the general officer commanding give as to the second line of transport?

A. If it is to be concentrated, the position selected should offer good facilities for parking and for defence.

Q. When cable carts are present where should they be directed to remain?

A. With the second line transport.

Q. Where does the first line transport move?

A. It will follow the main body of the force at sufficient distance to prevent its becoming involved in the action.

Q. When an action appears imminent and the ground admits what should be indicated for the ambulances and spare horses?

A. A place of shelter.

**Position of the Cavalry Commander.**

Q. When marching to the attack where should the leader be?

A. Well to the front, so as to overlook the ground across which he may possibly have to launch his command.

Q. What is his first duty?

A. To move in such a direction as to be ready at all times to influence the action of his command *as a whole*.

Q. When the cavalry commander has given general directions regarding the advance of his command who is responsible for the details of the march in accordance with those instructions?

A. A staff officer, because at this time the general officer commanding should have complete independence, and be free from the worry of details.

Q. In marching to the attack, how are alterations of pace taken up?

A. Simultaneously in each unit in order that the whole force may remain concentrated.

Q. In regulating the pace of the advance what should be the main object?

A. To keep the horses in wind and as fresh as possible for the fight.

**The Cavalry Fight.**

Q. How should the general officer endeavor



vour to combine the attacks of his brigades on the main portion of the enemy's force?

A. In accordance with a definite plan.

Q. How should the objective be struck?

A. As simultaneously as possible by the whole, and in order to accomplish this the charge must be well planned.

Q. Once the objective has been indicated how must the subordinate leaders act?

A. Each subordinate leader must lead forward his command in the formation best calculated to derive advantage from the ground and the actual military situation.

Q. Should the encounter be a series of successive episodes?

A. No; it should be the simultaneous action of all the brigades, either in parallel or converging direction, each unit fighting on its own account with an objective common to all.

#### Transmission of Orders.

Q. Until the moment of ordering the charge the commander of the cavalry will presumably be well out to the front; at this time where should the leaders of subordinate units be?

A. Close to the commander until the last possible moment and see situations through his eye.

Q. What should the commander endeavour to explain to them?

A. The purpose of the impending combat.

Q. Just before the commander of the cavalry gives the order to charge what should the subordinate leaders who have been with him do?

A. Rejoin their units in readiness for action.

Q. How are the orders for deployment for attack given?

A. By some simple signal or by galloper.

Q. Apart from ground, opportunity, cohesion, and a reserve, what three things are most conducive to the success of a cavalry charge?

A. Good observation, able leading, and a sound system of transmission of orders.

Q. When orders fail to arrive what should all subordinate leaders down to those of a squadron do?

A. Exercise their own initiative.

Q. May circumstances necessitate a deviation from the letter of an order raised.

A. Most assuredly. No officer will act against what he knows to be the intentions of his commander.

Q. In practice there will seldom be time to explain the whole plan to all subordinate leaders. What does this fact point to with regard to all combinations of units in the field.

A. That the plan should be as simple as

possible, in order that from their previous training subordinate leaders will be able to grasp the idea of the plan as soon as the deployment has been completed.

**Employment of the Artillery.**

Q. What is the paramount duty of artillery when co-operating with cavalry?

A. The preparation for the cavalry attack.

Q. What must the guns and the cavalry co-operate in attaining?

A. The common object.

Q. Should the artillery and the cavalry be manœuvred together?

A. The artillery must not be glued to the cavalry, but must be detached at the right moment.

Q. If possible how should artillery be protected?

A. By some natural obstacle, by machine guns, or sometimes by the rifles of dismounted men.

Q. Who indicates approximately the position for the artillery?

A. The cavalry leader to suit his tactical plan.

Q. Who decides the exact spot and moment for the guns to come into action?

A. The officer commanding the horse artillery in accordance with the situation as it develops.



Q. In order to fulfil its paramount duty, viz., to prepare the way for the cavalry, against what object should the horse artillery direct its fire in the first instance?

A. Against the opposing cavalry, so that by a rapid and well-directed fire the latter may be thrown into confusion.

Q. Is this an absolute rule?

A. A commander who neglects to use his artillery against the enemy's cavalry must have a very good reason for not doing so.

Q. Why is it so important that fire should not be opened prematurely?

A. Because it would disclose the intention of the cavalry commander and cause the manœuvre to miscarry.

Q. How should the cavalry, if possible, be manœuvred, immediately previous to the charge?

A. So as to bring the enemy under the fire of the artillery.

Q. To do this what will be necessary?

A. To conceal the guns.

Q. If the cavalry attack succeeds, what does the artillery do?

A. It will advance and assist in the pursuit?

Q. What is the object of the artillery in the pursuit?

A. To prevent the enemy re-forming or holding positions which would check the pursuit.

Q. If the attack fails what will the artillery do?

A. It will remain in action and form a rallying point for the cavalry.

Q. When falling back on the guns what must the cavalry avoid doing?

A. Masking the guns.

#### Escort for Artillery.

Q. Under normal circumstances do guns require a *special* escort?

A. No.

Q. Should an escort be required, who should the artillery commander ask to furnish it?

A. The nearest commander for sufficient men for the purpose.

Q. What is the duty of the escort?

A. To keep hostile bodies beyond effective rifle range of the guns.

Q. How should all ground within rifle range of the guns which might afford cover to the enemy be dealt with?

A. It must be either occupied by the escort or covered by its fire.

Q. What other portion of the batteries besides the guns may also require an escort?

A. The first line wagons and limbers being at a distance from the guns, may also require protection.

Q. When no natural cover is available,

what method should be adopted for protection?

A. The wagons or limbers afford good protection, and men posted behind them should be able to keep off considerably superior numbers of mounted men.

#### Machine Guns.

Q. What advantage do cavalry get from machine guns?

A. They afford a means of developing fire without dismounting men from the squadrons.

Q. During the cavalry fight how are the machine guns usually handled?

A. Massed under one commander.

Q. May they be employed in pairs?

A. Yes, when necessary.

Q. Who do the machine guns co-operate with?

A. The horse artillery.

Q. What will the presence of machine guns with artillery often admit of the latter dispensing with?

A. Any other escort.

#### Disposition for the Attack.

Q. What are the general principles for the disposition of a cavalry attack?

A. The success of a cavalry attack depends on an appreciation of the nature of

the ground in each situation as it arises. The tactical formations must be of the simplest. The formations must be adapted to the ground. Brigades may be divided into any proportions suitable to the occasion. Only the concentration of sufficient force at the right time and place can guarantee success. Rapid deployment to the front should be ensured, the necessary depth being supplied by the supports following.

Q. How is the attacking unit (say a brigade) usually supported?

A. By other units in échelon or at deploying interval on the flank.

Q. In what direction should deployment be made?

A. In such a direction that the attack will force the enemy to retire in the most disadvantageous direction for him.

Q. What should always be the first consideration?

A. Tactical victory.

Q. Why should an endeavour to secure "outer lines" be made?

A. So as to act concentrically upon the enemy.

Q. What advantage is gained by acting concentrically?

A. The enemy's lines of retreat will thus cross one another, whereas, if we are de-

feated the enemy will be divided in his pursuit.

Q. How should the "outer lines" be gained?

A. By previous operations and not by flanking movement in face of the enemy.

Q. How should one flank be secured if possible?

A. By inaccessible or difficult ground, troops will thus be set free to strengthen the other flank.

Q. When the ground favours the advance and conceals the direction of the march what should be done?

A. Every effort should be directed to throwing the whole weight of the charge against the enemy's flank so as to compel him at the last moment to change his front to meet the blow.

Q. When is this especially advisable?

A. When the enemy is in numerically superiority.

Q. When the enemy is numerically inferior, or when he remains in a faulty formation for some time what should be done?

A. He should be attacked in front as well as in flank.

Q. How should the attacking line be supported?

A. Lines in *échelon* in rear must always operate so as to support the attacking line, for the vigour of a charge will be greatly

increased by the confidence inspired by supporting troops.

Q. Why is it so important to retain a reserve?

A. Because when once the force has deployed, the cavalry commander is powerless to modify his plan should he find that the enemy is still manœuvring.

Q. In deciding on which flank to place his reserve what should the cavalry commander be chiefly guided by?

A. By the ground.

Q. Is there any other factor of importance that may influence him in his choice?

A. The direction of the wind is at times a factor of great importance in a dry and dusty country.

Q. When only should the reserve be placed on the same flank as the support?

A. Only when the inner flank rests on an impassable obstacle.

Q. In order to re-establish a doubtful engagement what should be done?

A. A counter attack must be made by the reserve upon the inner flank or rear of the enemy during the mêlée.

#### **Final Deployment for the Attack.**

Q. In the final deployment for the attack what points are essential?

A. (a) The attack must take place at an opportune moment.

- (b) The enemy should be surprised.
- (c) Rapidity is necessary (complicated movements and long words of command should be avoided).
- (d) The method of communicating orders should ensure them being received without delay.

Q. Having launched his command to the attack, where should the cavalry commander take up his position?

A. On the flank from which he can observe the fight and at the same time be in close communication with his reserve.

Q. What else must the commander be in a position to do?

A. To rally his troops after they have become dispersed in the *mêlée*, he must also take measures to reap the fruits of success or ward off the consequences of defeat.

#### Pursuit.

Q. What two courses of action are open to squadrons in pursuit?

A. They must either pursue at top speed (when they will be in disorder) or rally at once at the halt; there can be no middle course.

Q. If in disorder what will the pursuing troops be exposed to?

A. They will be at the mercy of any fresh hostile troops; a reserve will therefore be necessary.

Q. How should the pursuit be conducted?

A. Most vigorously, the beaten enemy must be given neither peace nor rest until he is completely exhausted and disorganised.

**Contact with the Hostile Main Columns.**

Q. What is the ultimate objective of the independent cavalry?

A. To get into touch with the enemy's main columns and to discover the front they occupy, their depth and the direction of their march.

Q. After the principal obstacle represented by the hostile squadrons is removed by victory in the cavalry fight, is there a second obstacle to be pierced or thrown aside before the information sought for by the independent cavalry can be gained?

A. The defeated cavalry will probably fall back upon the wings of the main army and reinforce the cavalry forming the system of protection; there is thus a second obstacle to be pierced before the information sought can be gained.

\* Q. What will probably be necessary in order to break through the enemy's system of protection?

\* A. Possibly a mass of cavalry and guns will have to operate in order to break through, and both mounted and dismounted action may have to be employed.



## DISMOUNTED ACTION.

## The Attack.

Q. What does the effective employment of fire action by cavalry depend on?

A. A just appreciation of the power of the rifle, combined with a thorough acquaintance with the advantage to be derived from rapid and *concealed* movement.

Q. Should dismounted cavalry undertake long advances on foot?

A. No, it should seek rather to effect its object by surprise.

Q. Is a protracted fire fight suited to the action of cavalry?

A. No; consequently a gradual reinforcement of the firing line is out of place.

Q. How should cavalry fire action be developed?

A. By the employment of a large number of rifles, in order to develop the greatest fire effect from the moment the leader decides to open fire.

Q. How should economy of ammunition be effected?

A. Not by limiting fire when needed, but by judiciously timing its use.

Q. What class of fire will probably be found to be the most effective method of regulating the expenditure of ammunition?

A. The delivery of sudden outbursts of

fire will usually be found to be the most effective method.

Q. During the intervals between the bursts of fire is it desirable to keep up an intermittent fire?

A. It is better to desist from fire altogether in the hope of inducing the enemy to believe that a retirement has been effected, intermittent fire can have but little effect.

Q. What is it that materially favours the employment of outflanking movements by cavalry in these days?

A. The rapidity with which mounted troops can change position is now combined with the increased effect of enfilade fire due to the long range of modern rifles.

Q. As a consequence of this increased fire power, what should commanders ever be on the look-out for?

A. Opportunities to force the enemy to retire by unexpectedly occupying positions enfilading his line.

Q. On such occasions what arm should be used?

A. Machine guns. (*Cavalry should not be used entirely as mounted infantry.*)

Q. In order that cavalry may obtain the full advantage of its mobility in the fight what is essential?

A. A complete system of communication

between the commander and all his subordinates.

Q. How must dismounted cavalry be invariably protected from surprise?

A. By pushing out look-out men and mounted patrols well to the flanks and rear.

Q. What is done with the led horses of dismounted men?

A. They will be kept as close at hand as possible, but should not follow the movements of the dismounted men unless definitely ordered to do so by the commander.

Q. When is a reserve necessary for the protection of led horses?

A. With bodies larger than a troop.

Q. What does the size of this reserve depend on?

A. The information available regarding the hostile cavalry.

Q. How should the reserve be prepared to act?

A. They should dismount under cover and be prepared to act mounted or dismounted as the situation may require.

Q. Must communication between the dismounted men attacking and the horses be kept up?

A. Invariably.

Q. What is the usual method of the dismounted attacks?

A. It will usually take the form of a

rapid advance of one portion of the command, mounted as long as possible, covered by the fire of some or all of the remaining squadrons.

Q. During the advance what should every advantage be taken of?

A. A concealed line of approach.

Q. When he proposes to act dismounted, what should the commander explain to his subordinate leaders?

A. The object of the operation about to be carried out and how he intends to accomplish it.

Q. Previous to advancing what should the commander ascertain by personal observation through glasses and by sending forward scouts, mounted or on foot?

A. The most concealed avenue of approach to the fire position which he intends to occupy.

Q. Before advancing what should the commander of a troop, squadron, or other unit always inform neighbouring units and with what object?

A. His intention to advance, in order that such advance may be covered by a timely outburst of fire from all the troops in the vicinity.

Q. Does this warning relieve a commander of the necessity of always being on the look-out to assist the advance of neighbouring units by his fire?

A. It does not; when not actually engaged himself every leader must be always on the look-out to assist those that are.

Q. During the action against what portions of the enemy's line will fire be concentrated?

A. Against such as offer favourable targets.

Q. Describe briefly a useful form of offensive dismounted action when co-operating with the other arms.

A. Galloping to a good tactical point, opening a telling fire on the enemy, preferably on his flank or rear, and then rapidly moving on or pushing detachments further round to seize other points.

Q. When dismounted action is imminent what special arrangements should be made for supplementing the ammunition carried by the men?

A. The small arms ammunition wagons should be moved up, or ammunition may be more quickly sent forward on the *lead* horses of the wagons or on pack animals.

#### The Defence.

Q. When cavalry is called upon temporarily to occupy localities for defence what, as a general rule, is the class of tactics that it should adopt?

A. An *active* defence so as to retain the full advantage of its mobility.

Q. In defence what must always be the paramount consideration?

A. To bring an effective fire to bear on the attack, and in order to do this great attention must be paid to securing a wide and open field of fire.

Whenever time permits should the position be put into a state of defence?

A. Yes; the preparations, however, should be limited to those of the simplest kind.

Q. During the initial stages of a defensive engagement the cavalry commander should employ the minimum number of men dismounted, retaining the remainder in readiness to act mounted or dismounted. Why is this plan advocated?

A. So that when the enemy has disclosed his dispositions, he will be able to take immediate advantage of any opportunity for a successful counterstroke that the enemy may offer.

Q. What great principle of war is thus borne in mind?

A. That counter-attack is the soul of defence (especially with quick-moving troops like cavalry).

Q. Is the value of enfilade fire as great when acting in defence as in attack?

A. Yes.

Q. What should, therefore, be done to harass the enemy's advance?

A. Whenever possible a small party, assisted by machine guns, should be placed on a flank.

Q. What are the rules to be observed by the squadron commander in deciding on the position of led horses?

A. To ensure that they are covered from view and fire of the enemy and are sufficiently safeguarded.

Q. When may the led horses be placed directly in rear of the dismounted men?

A. Only when the configuration of the ground behind the firing line affords complete protection.

Q. What considerations should determine the range at which fire should be opened?

A. When the object of the operation is to delay the enemy, it will usually be advisable to open fire at long range, in order that he may be forced to deploy at some distance from the position; on the other hand, to effect a surprise, it may often be advisable to allow the enemy to advance to within decisive range before doing so.

Q. Do the instructions for the maintenance of communication, and fire discipline given with regard to dismounted attacks, apply equally to defensive action?

A. Yes.

Q. Should the commander decide to vacate the position he may be holding, what should he endeavour to do?

A. Retire without disclosing the fact to the enemy.

Q. In retiring under fire how should men be taught to move?

A. From cover to cover rapidly; portions of the line will retire alternately, affording each other mutual support by taking up successive fire positions from which they can develop a heavy covering fire.

Q. When it is intended to occupy a position in rear, what should be done?

A. An officer should be sent back to select the most suitable ground and to direct detached units where to go.

### PROTECTIVE CAVALRY.

#### Organization.

Q. Does strategical reconnaissance alone suffice to ensure protection to an army?

A. No.

Q. To whom is the duty of protection entrusted?

A. To the protective cavalry, which will usually be supported by horse artillery, and, when necessary, by mounted infantry or infantry in vehicles.

Q. What is the special duty of this force?



A. To furnish the first line of security for the army or group of divisions with which it is operating, and protect it against hostile enterprises.

Q. May it be called upon to perform any other duty?

A. It may also be required to report upon the country in front of the main army and upon its resources.

Q. What governs the position of the protective cavalry?

A. That of the force covered.

Q. When the opposing armies are within striking distance of each other, what duty usually falls to the lot of the protective cavalry?

A. It will usually carry out the tactical reconnaissance of the enemy.

Q. Has it any defensive duty allotted to it in connection with the position?

A. It may be employed to seize and hold positions in front of the slower-moving infantry and deny their occupation to the enemy.

Q. Who commands the protective cavalry?

A. Its own commander who, though under the direct orders of the force covered, should be allowed considerable latitude in carrying out his instructions.

Q. How far should the protective cavalry be ahead of the force it is covering?

A. Sufficiently far ahead to enable it to concentrate in time for battle.

Q. What will this distance depend upon?

A. The front covered by the several columns and the time they will require to concentrate.

#### Duties.

Q. How will the commander in disposing of his force employ his cavalry chiefly?

A. For protective reconnaissance, and mounted infantry, if they form a part of his force, as supports.

Q. Although necessarily extended over a considerable front, what must the commander of the protective force ensure?

A. Intimate co-operation between all portions of his force so as to utilize his whole available strength, if necessary, in opposing hostile columns endeavouring to surprise the force he is covering.

Q. In covering the march of a force of all arms, how must the protective cavalry be disposed?

A. To suit the nature of the country. As a rule the commander will keep the bulk of his force as concentrated as the nature of his duties will admit, and will push patrols suitably supported, along all the approaches by which hostile bodies might advance. ,

Q. Wherein do the functions of these

patrols differ from those sent out merely to obtain information?

A. They will differ in some respects from those sent out merely to obtain information, in so far as their objective is not so much to avoid observation as to prevent hostile patrols from gaining information, and also to give timely warning of the approach of any larger hostile bodies.

Q. In order to carry out their duties what must these patrols do?

A. Search thoroughly every locality in which those of the enemy may be concealed.

Q. Instead of conforming strictly to the movements of the main army, may a portion of the protective cavalry sometimes be moved rapidly forward, if so, with what object?

A. It may be advantageous at times for portions of the protective cavalry to move rapidly forward to some natural feature, such as a ridge or river, along which it will establish posts of observation, the intervening country being watched by patrols, the line being divided into sections with suitable supports for each.

Q. What will the remainder of the protecting force do?

A. It will continue to maintain a line of observation in rear until the new line of observation is taken up; it will then con-

concentrate and move up to support the latter, or pass through it to form a more advanced line.

Q. What advantage is derived from this method?

A. Horses are spared unnecessary fatigue, and fewer squadrons are broken up than if the whole force extended and marched at a uniform pace in front of the column covered.

Q. How should information gained be rapidly transmitted to headquarters?

A. The protective cavalry must be in communication with the commander of the force it is covering by telegraph, telephone, signalling, or by a chain of connecting posts.

Q. What body of cavalry should furnish the chain of connecting posts?

A. They should, as a rule, be found from the *divisional* cavalry.

Q. What kind of action does the tactical reconnaissance of the enemy entail on the protective cavalry when the opposing armies approach to within striking distance of each other?

A. Offensive rather than defensive action. The troops which the enemy will have pushed forward to cover his movements must be attacked and driven back.

Q. May any other troops co-operate in doing this with the protective cavalry?

A. The independent cavalry may co-operate with effect.

Q. So the instructions as to dismounted action given for independent cavalry apply to the protective cavalry

A. Yes, they do.

### THE DIVISIONAL CAVALRY.

#### Duties.

Q. What are the duties of the divisional cavalry?

A. To assist the infantry in the immediate protection of the division by supplying mounted men for patrolling in connection with the advanced, flank, and rear guards and outposts; to maintain connection with the protective cavalry, and to furnish escorts, orderlies, and despatch riders for the purpose of inter-communication generally.\*

Q. Why should the greatest economy be exercised by all commanders in the employment of mounted orderlies and despatch riders?

A. In order to spare the horses of the divisional cavalry.

Q. May orderlies be employed for duties other than those for which they are detailed?

A. On no account; they must return punctually to their units.

Q. When should cyclists be used instead of mounted messengers?

A. Whenever the military situation and the ground permit.

Q. When employed with advanced, flank, or rear guards what particular places should be filled by men detailed from the division cavalry?

A. Those of points and flankers, their mobility enabling them to examine a wide extent of ground.

Q. How may the divisional cavalry attached to the outposts by day be employed?

A. For reconnaissance or as standing patrols.

Q. When communication within the outposts cannot be maintained by signalling or the use of cyclists how are they kept up?

A. The divisional cavalry will furnish sufficient mounted men with the supports and the reserves for the purpose.

\* This question has been previously answered under another heading; it is recapitulated here for convenience.

#### CAVALRY IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE OTHER ARMS ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

General Considerations affecting Cavalry on  
the Battlefield.

Q. During which phase of the campaign

is the necessity for good cavalry of the highest importance?

A. During the reconnoitring phase, both armies will be much influenced in their preliminary dispositions by the success of the cavalry. Successful cavalry will give the commander-in-chief the power to assume the offensive if he has the means at his disposal to do so, or warn him in time to assume a defensive attitude with deliberation if he deems it expedient to do so; on the other hand with beaten cavalry thrown back on his infantry he will be more or less in the dark regarding the dispositions and intention of the enemy, and will probably be obliged to assume a defensive attitude.

Q. Under normal conditions how many phases are there in a modern battle?

A. Five, viz.:—

- (a). The introductory stage.
- (b). The preparatory stage.
- (c). The development of the action.
- (d). The crisis.
- (e). The pursuit or retreat.

Q. Although the action of cavalry will vary according to each phase of the battle, what should be ever-present in the mind of the cavalry commander?

A. The cavalry commander must always be mindful of the demands which either pursuit or retreat may make upon the horses. *Secondary considerations* must not

be allowed to use up means which might be used with decisive effect at other times and places.

Q. What precautions should be taken with a view to sparing both men and horses as much as possible during the progress of the battle?

A. Opportunities to feed, water, and rest must be seized, and whenever the duty for which detached squadrons have been detailed is accomplished they must, on the initiative of their own officers, move to join the main group of the cavalry.

#### The Introductory Phase.

Q. Describe the action of the cavalry during the introductory phase of the battle when each army will usually be divided into several columns, each preceded by its advanced guard, the whole covered by the protective cavalry.

A. The bulk of the protective cavalry will be scattered or remain concentrated according to the size of the zone in which it is to operate, the nature of the ground, and the first dispositions of the enemy.

Q. When will the veil thus formed be torn aside?

A. Only when the artillery and infantry of the advanced guards open fire.

Q. Is any reconnoitring necessary during the introductory stage?



A. In order to supplement the information obtained by the "strategical patrols" of the independent cavalry a carefully organized and extensive system of reconnoitring detachments will usually be necessary during the introductory stage, these will be furnished by the protective cavalry if not already provided by the independent cavalry.

Q. As a rule, how is the reconnaissance performed?

A. By officers' patrols pushed against the enemy's front; suitably supported by contact troops or squadrons, or even by larger bodies, from which detachments must be pushed further forward to act partly mounted and partly on foot according to circumstances.

Q. If the hostile cavalry is still in being, how will this affect the number of reconnoitring detachments sent out?

A. They will be limited by the necessity of maintaining a concentrated group of cavalry and horse artillery in readiness to meet it.

Q. In order to complete the reconnaissance what should reconnoitring detachments endeavour to reach?

A. Some concealed position from which scouts and patrols may be pushed forward on foot.

Q. Who is responsible for the accuracy

of information gained by this close reconnaissance?

A. The officer who accompanies the reconnoitring detachment, but his success will depend in a great measure upon how he is supported.

Q. Describe some of the methods by which reconnaissance in close proximity to the enemy may be facilitated?

A. By one portion of a troop or squadron dismounting and opening fire in order to engage the enemy's attention, while another portion taking advantage of cover approaches the position; or it may be preferable for scouts to move forward to positions of observation by night from which they can watch by day.

Q. What officers other than their own may sometimes accompany cavalry patrols?

A. Officers of artillery and the general staff in order to gain personal knowledge of the actual ground and the enemy's preliminary dispositions.

Q. Why is it necessary that the information furnished by this tactical reconnaissance should be precise?

A. It must serve as the basis of the army commander's plan of battle.

Q. In addition to reporting on the preliminary dispositions of the enemy, what must patrols carefully note?

A. All important topographical features

and the difficulties and facilities to an advance which the ground may present.

Q. Why is it more difficult for scouts to see and reconnoitre an enemy's position and report upon his strength than formerly?

A. The increased range of modern fire-arms compels scouts to keep further away from the enemy than formerly; whilst the introduction of smokeless powder makes it difficult to locate an enemy even when his fire has been drawn.

Q. When can the number, strength, and distribution of the enemy's columns be best ascertained?

A. When patrols are in touch with the enemy during his march.

Q. How may a fairly accurate idea of the enemy's preliminary dispositions for battle be formed?

A. By comparing the reports of patrols that have been in touch with his columns on the march with those of scouts reconnoitring the position itself.

Q. When will it be possible for the officers carrying out the reconnaissance to judge what positions their own artillery should take up?

A. After they have examined the country and discovered generally the enemy's dispositions and the artillery positions he is likely to occupy.

Q. In order to do this what must cavalry officers know?

A. How to distinguish what positions are the most suitable for artillery and what ground is practicable for that arm.

Q. In order to secure desirable positions for artillery to occupy when it comes up what may the cavalry be called upon to do?

A. Seize and hold them in conjunction with mounted infantry, or to dismount and assisted by machine guns hold such positions as are of importance, whilst other squadrons supported by horse artillery, manœuvre to delay the enemy's advance.

Q. Behind the veil thus formed by the advanced mounted troops (some squadrons engaged in supporting scouts and others holding tactical points) what will the army commander be able to do?

A. Form his plan of action.

#### **The Preparatory Phase.**

##### **Independent or Strategic Cavalry.**

Q. If the independent cavalry has the fortune to defeat that of its opponents what should be its main object?

A. To harass the march of the enemy's columns by threatened attacks and thus force them to halt and to make premature deployments resulting in delay.

Q. What effect will this method of procedure have on the enemy?

A. His *morale* will be affected, and at the same time his men fatigued.

#### Protective Cavalry.

Q. During the preparatory phase, what is the rôle of the protective cavalry?

A. It becomes modified, and the protective cavalry commences to concentrate its various units, which have hitherto been dispersed along the front with a view to suitable employment, which will depend upon the plan of operations of the whole force. Certain objectives for assault or defence will be given to the several divisions.

#### Divisional Cavalry.

Q. During the preparatory phase, what will be the duties of the divisional cavalry?

A. In addition to their usual duties the divisional squadrons should detach patrols to watch the flanks of the division to which they belong, and will furnish mounted men, when necessary, to keep up communications between any detachments of infantry that may be separated from their divisions and the main body to which they belong.

#### The Development of the Action.

Q. When the infantry move forward to

attack what becomes of the groups of protective cavalry which can no longer remain in the front line?

A. Each group will rally on its own main body, which, according to its rôle and field of action, will either drop back in rear or find some position of readiness near the force with which it is working, so as to be prepared for action when opportunity offers.

Q. What becomes of the independent cavalry when it is withdrawn from its strategical field of action?

A. It should be concentrated in a position of readiness.

Q. In selecting the positions of readiness of the independent and protective cavalry what must be borne in mind?

A. The configuration of the ground and its "cavalry capacity," and to endeavour to foresee the nature of the fighting between the various portions of the line (to feel, as it were, the pulse of the battle).

Q. Where will the bulk of the independent cavalry usually be?

A. Whenever possible on that flank which offers the greatest freedom of movement as far as the ground allows.

Q. In all circumstances what must the independent cavalry be at hand and ready for?

A. To act at the point which offers the

best tactical chances and prospect of decisive results.

Q. In co-operating with the other arms the rôle of cavalry will depend on circumstances. Mention some of the most common uses it may be put to.

A. To operate against the enemy's flanks and so incidentally protect its own, to assist in enveloping movements, or to deceive the enemy as to the commander's plan of action by the formation of "false fronts" and "false flanks."

Q. As a general rule the most favourable position for the independent cavalry will usually be *forward and to the flank* of the main line of battle. What are the reasons for this disposition?

A. (a). The cavalry masses thus placed are best situated to act against the enemy's flanks.

(b). Fire can be combined concentrically with the main attack.

(c). Pursuit on parallel lines can be initiated from this position, or the enemy's attempts at pursuit frustrated.

(d). The enemy can best be driven from his direct line of retreat; this will offer the main army the further advantage of striking him in flank while retreating.

Q. What must the position selected for the cavalry secure to each unit?

A. Space for deployment and room to manoeuvre for a common purpose.

Q. How should the units themselves be grouped?

A. With sufficient intervals for deployment.

Q. How should cover from fire be secured?

A. By taking advantage of all natural features.

Q. Why is the position of the cavalry commander so extremely important during a battle?

A. Because it rests with him to recognize the right moment to take part in the combat; that the opportunity for action may be seized will depend to a great extent upon the position of the cavalry commander.

Q. With whom should the cavalry commander's point of observation be connected with, and how?

A. With the commander of the main force and other divisional commanders by field telegraph, telephone, signalling, or despatch riders.

Q. Is there any other means by which the cavalry commanders can keep in touch with the course of operations as a whole?

A. It may be desirable for him to detach one of his own staff to the headquarters of



the main force not only to keep him in touch with the course of the operations, but also to ensure there being someone with headquarters conversant with the cavalry situation.

Q. How does the cavalry commander keep himself informed of what is going on in his sphere of action?

A. Officers specially detailed (in addition to the usual combat and protection patrols already out) should be sent out into those sections of ground which he cannot overlook.

#### The Crisis.

Q. What is the moment which offers the greatest opportunities for cavalry in action?

A. The moment of crisis.

Q. How only can crises when they occur be taken advantage of?

A. Only when cavalry are employed in concentrated force, for to bring about the defeat of even an important fraction of an enemy, to reap the fruits of a great victory, or to cover a retreat numbers alone can avail.

Q. What must every cavalry officer endeavour to acquire with regard to infantry?

A. A complete grasp of the nature of the infantry fight, and to be able to recognize the consumption of the enemy's reserves

and the gradual exhaustion both moral and physical of his troops.

Q. Although opportunities must be seized without a moment's delay and be turned to account with the utmost determination, what must be carefully resisted?

A. The temptation to undertake a charge when the losses likely to be incurred will be in no reasonable proportion to the possible results. Cavalry leaders must also know when to give place to the other arms.

Q. What two points may be borne in mind in connection with modern fire-arms?

A. The impact of the modern small-bore bullet may at times produce less immediate effect than formerly, and that therefore many horses will not be stopped in the charge, despite severe injuries; on the other hand, in consequence of the flatter trajectory of the modern bullet the danger zone of rifle fire is now greater than was previously the case.

**The Cavalry Attack against Artillery or  
Infantry.**

\* Q. Every attack by cavalry against the other arms comprises three acts; what are they?

- \* A. (a). The approach.  
(b). The attack.  
(c). The rally.

## The Approach.

Q. In order to achieve success in the cavalry attack what is essential?

A. Surprise. The *moral* effect produced by surprise is great.

Q. How should the advance be made?

A. It must be concealed, and carried out with a view to subsequent moral effect.

Q. If the ground does not favour an attack under these conditions what should a cavalry commander do?

A. He must look for his chance elsewhere or wait for a more favourable opportunity.

Q. What is an essential preliminary to the attack of cavalry?

A. That the ground be carefully reconnoitred and a concealed line of approach noted.

Q. What regulates the formation for the approach.

A. It must depend mainly upon the ground, the cover available, and the manner in which it is desired to strike the objective.

Q. When can the really "fire swept" zone only be crossed?

A. Only at a moment when the enemy is prevented from bringing his full fire power to bear upon it.

Q. What advantage does cavalry derive from the extent of modern battlefields.

A. Deadly zones of fire will more often be interspersed with "dead ground" favourable for the approach of cavalry.

#### The Attack.

Q. What does the formation of the attack depend upon?

A. The formation in which the preliminary advance is made, and upon the position of the objective.

Q. For what purpose may squadrons in extended order be used?

A. To divert the enemy's attention from the real attack.

Q. How should an attack against infantry be made?

A. In a succession of lines.

Q. Why should cavalry attack on a broad front?

A. Because if the front of the attacking cavalry be too narrow it will not only have to face the fire of the troops immediately in its front, but it will be the focus for the fire from all sides.

Q. In order to prevent being the focus for the fire from all sides what should be done?

A. As many attacking units should be formed as there are bodies of the enemy to charge, and whenever possible, a flank

action should be combined with a frontal one.

#### The Rally.

Q. After the charge what will sometimes be the best course to take?

A. To pass right through the body of the enemy charged and rally to a flank instead of returning by the route by which the charge was made.

Q. Where should the rally, if possible, take place, and in what formation?

A. Under cover, and should be in "Mass."

Q. Should the point or points at which the rally is to be made be indicated beforehand?

A. When possible and explained to all ranks.

#### The Pursuit or Retreat.

Q. What may be said to be the *special* duty of cavalry?

A. The pursuit.

Q. What must ever be borne in mind, even during the earlier phases of the action by the cavalry commander?

A. He must always bear in mind the necessity of being prepared to pursue.

Q. How can the full advantages of victory be secured?

A. By a vigorous pursuit; it must be

undertaken with every available man, and must be continued until the enemy is completely scattered. As he gets weaker and weaker he must be attacked until he surrenders. The pursuit must be kept up with vigour by day and by night—without regard to men or horses.

Q. By what troops will the direct or frontal pursuit of a defeated army in most cases be taken up?

A. By the infantry. Cavalry must be cautious how they attack even beaten artillery or infantry unless they are totally demoralized.

Q. What is the most advantageous course for cavalry to take in pursuit?

A. Parallel lines to the enemy's retreat, pursuit on the flanks, offers peculiar advantages to cavalry, who, on account of their mobility, may repeatedly attack the flanks of the enemy's columns, with the ultimate intention of anticipating him on some point on his line of retreat.

Q. In such operations what weapon will generally be employed, and with what reason?

A. The rifle, for only in the fire fight is it possible for the mounted troops to break off an attack without loss, so as to appear at some other point and recommence the attack.

Q. When will mounted action alone secure good results?

A. When the enemy is completely demoralized and his fire power utterly broken.

Q. If retreat becomes necessary how must cavalry act?

A. Energetically, both mounted and dismounted to check the enemy's pursuit.

Q. Who must determine the tactics to be pursued by the cavalry when covering a retreat, and what considerations will influence him in the plan he adopts?

A. The commander of the cavalry will determine, in accordance with the features of the ground, whether delay is best brought about by the occupation of positions blocking or flanking the enemy's line of advance and the employment of fire action, or by a vigorous and timely attack by a body of horsemen.

Q. When deciding on the course he will pursue what must the cavalry commander carefully call to mind?

A. He must remember that once his force is committed to the charge, rallying in the midst of a *pursuing* enemy, whose numbers are continually increasing, is a matter of the utmost difficulty; and that once this force is used up in such action fresh troops will have to be found to carry on the duties that were entrusted to him.

Q. May opportunities be offered to delay the enemy's pursuit by mounted action?

A. Sometimes wide on the flanks, where even the threat of a mounted attack or a sudden dash from ambush may cause the enemy's pursuit to be delayed, without the force becoming too deeply committed.

#### Night Operations.

Q. Is there a rôle for cavalry in night work?

A. An enterprising cavalry should miss no opportunity of harassing the enemy by disturbing his repose, or rendering him liable to panic. The moral effect of a night operation is often disastrous to hostile troops, especially when resting after a prolonged march or severe engagement.

Q. What ruse may be employed by cavalry with effect in night operations?

A. Rapid fire may entirely deceive an enemy as to the strength and composition of the force engaged on such occasions.

Q. What precepts should be borne in mind when planning a night march?

A. Night marches must be designed on very simple lines or they will fail. Combined movements of two forces acting in co-operation are seldom successful. Wheeled transport and guns endanger the success of a night march. Smoking should never be allowed.



Q. What class of cavalry work is largely carried on by night?

A. Reconnaissance, and scouts must, therefore, be constantly practised at this form of night work in peace time.

Q. With a force larger than a regiment what is reckoned to be the rate of marching at night?

A. It seldom exceeds two miles an hour.

CHAPTER IV.  
CHAPTER VIII.—MISCELLANEOUS  
DUTIES.

(CAVALRY TRAINING, 1907).

Requisitioning and Foraging.

Transport of Cavalry by Railway.

Embarkation of Horses.

Passing over Temporary Bridges.

Field Engineering.

Crossing Rivers.

Duties in Aid of the Civil Powers.

Requisitioning and Foraging.

Q. How should a party detailed to carry out a requisition proceed to execute its mission?

A. It will usually tell off about a quarter of its strength, under an officer, to guard the outlets of the town or village in which the requisition is to be made.

Q. As soon as all the approaches are guarded what is the first thing to be done?

A. The head local authority should be

sent for and the place and time for the supplies to be delivered clearly explained.

Q. Should hostages be taken?

A. If considered necessary.

Q. What precautions should be taken to guard any place in which supplies are seen to exist?

A. Sentries will be placed over them.

Q. What does the remainder of the party do?

A. It takes up a suitable position in the direction of the enemy, posting look out men and sending out patrols.

Q. What should be done with all individuals who come within the line?

A. They should be detained till the work is finished.

Q. After posting the main body what will the commander do?

A. He will return to the locality and superintend the loading of the supplies, which should have been collected in an open space.

Q. If there are no horses, but only vehicles in the place what must be done in order to remove the goods?

A. Some of the horses of the detachment must be harnessed to them.

#### Transport of Cavalry by Railway.

Q. Where are detailed instructions for

the movement of cavalry by railway given?

A. In "The King's Regulations."

Q. The actual details must, of course, varying according to circumstances, such as the size of the station, the position of the train with reference to the platform from which the embarkation is to be made, &c.; but in all cases how should the operation be carried out?

A. Systematically, each separate step should be conducted under the direction of, and by distinct word of command from, the commanding officer.

Q. Is there any system of drill laid down which should be adopted, as far as circumstances admit, in carrying out the operations of transporting cavalry by train?

A. Yes. The detachment having been formed up, if possible, in single rank on the platform facing the train, the words of command are given in accordance with the drill laid down. (*Vide* "Cavalry Training, 1907.")

Q. Should regiments be frequently practised in the drill as laid down for the loading and unloading of horses?

A. Most certainly it should be practised so far as it can be taught in the barracks, and where arrangements can be made with the railway it should be practically carried out.

**Embarkation of Horses.**

See "Appendix to Training Manuals" and "King's Regulations."

**Passing over Temporary Bridges.**

Q. When large bodies of troops have to pass a river, and circumstances permit, how many bridges will, as a rule, be made?

A. Three, one for infantry, one for cavalry, and a third for artillery, and wagons which accompany the force.

Q. As a rule, how will cavalry cross a temporary bridge?

A. In single file or files, but never at a faster pace than a walk. All horses should be mounted in crossing a bridge.

Q. How must wheel carriages of all kinds with trained horses pass over temporary bridges?

A. Fully horsed.

Q. With unsteady horses, what must be done?

A. The carriages must be passed over by hand. Taking out the lead horses and crossing with the wheel horses only is strictly forbidden.

Q. If the bridge sways so as to become very unsteady what must be done?

A. The column must be halted and not allowed to resume its movement till the swaying has ceased.

Q. Do these rules apply to all suspension, military, spar, and floating bridges?

A. Yes.

Q. Who decides how a temporary bridge is to be crossed?

A. The engineer officer in charge. Officers will incur grave responsibility if they cross a bridge otherwise than he directs, or disobey the instructions that are posted up for their guidance.

Q. Explain how cavalry horses should be practised in crossing pontoon bridges?

A. The horses should first be marched across in single file at a horse's length distance from each other, great care being taken to keep them at a slow walk and to prevent all hurrying up towards the front or trotting. Horses that are unsteady should be made to fall out, and to file across by themselves, backwards and forwards several times in succession, a lead being given to them by a steady horse.

Q. When horses go with perfect steadiness across a bridge in single file, how should they be practised?

A. They should be marched across in half-sections.

Q. If the planks are slippery what should be done?

A. Some straw laid on the planks deadens the noise with horses and prevents them slipping.

Q. Why is straw better than sand?

A. It does not slip through the joints.

**Field Engineering.**

Q. In order that cavalry may achieve the greatest success in raids and when operating in advance of the main army, what engineering duties should they be trained to carry out unassisted?

A. (a) Crossing rivers, by means of improvised bridges and rafts.

(b) Demolition or repair of railways, bridges.

(c) Demolition, repairs, and tapping of telegraph lines.

(d) Construction of simple defence works, entrenching, loopholing, etc.

Q. Where are details of instruction in these subjects given?

A. In the "Manual of Military Engineering."

**Pioneers' Course.**

Q. What is the proportion per squadron of the line of "cavalry pioneers?"

A. They should not be less than twelve per squadron.

Q. What are these non-commissioned officers and men specially trained in?

A. Hasty demolitions, light bridging, &c.

Q. How frequently will a course of instruction in the duties of pioneers be carried out by the cavalry at all stations at home?

A. Annually.

Q. What men will these classes be formed from?

A. Men who have followed some trade, or who are considered most likely to profit by this instruction.

Q. What officers will be put through the course?

A. Every subaltern officer.

Q. Under whom is the instruction carried out?

A. Under an officer who has qualified at the Cavalry School, or who has received certificates from the School of Military Engineering at Chatham, or from one of the schools in India.

#### Crossing Rivers.

Q. Is it generally thought necessary to construct large rafts for the purpose of crossing rivers with cavalry?

A. No, it is not worth the labour, time, or materials to do so.

Q. What is considered preferable?

A. To use small rafts or boats to carry the men, their kits and saddlery, and to make the horses swim, or to carry the kits



and saddlery only, the men swimming with their horses.

Q. How often should practice in crossing rivers according to these methods take place?

A. Frequently.

Q. Should the men be taught to swim?

A. Every opportunity should be taken for teaching men to swim, since a man who is not confident of himself in the water, may, through fear, paralyze the movements of a horse that swims well.

Q. Who should be the instructors of the men who cannot swim?

A. Good swimmers will be found in every body of troops, and these should be used as instructors.

Q. When a good proportion of the men can swim, what should they do with the horses?

A. They should train all the horses of the squadron to face a running stream.

Q. If some of the horses refuse to cross what must be done with them?

A. These must either be led across beside a horse that swims boldly or towed across from a boat or raft.

Q. Why should a tow rope be used, if possible, and not oars?

A. Oars will always frighten a nervous horse.

Q. When all the horses have learnt to cross, what should be done?

A. The whole squadron may be sent across in a mob, led by a few steady horses with their riders.

Q. What should scouts' horses be taught to do?

A. To cross a river with saddles and equipment on, the rider carrying his cartridges as much out of the water as possible.

Q. When teaching horses to swim what must be impressed upon the men?

A. To take care that they are not frightened.

Q. Can all horses swim naturally?

A. Yes, and it is only through fear that they sometimes become unmanageable and get carried down stream.

Q. Prior to entering the water what saddlery should be removed?

A. All except the head collar and bridoon reins.

Q. Why should the reins be knotted and a lock of the mane pulled through the knot?

A. To prevent the reins slipping over the head, and becoming entangled with the fore legs.

Q. How far into the water should horses be ridden?

A. Until out of their depth, when the

men should slip off, down stream side, and hold on to the horses by the mane.

Q. How should the horses be guided?

A. By pulling the near or off rein as required.

Q. When swimming against a strong current how should the horses be guided?

A. They should be kept at an angle of about 45 degrees, to the direction of the stream to avoid their being carried too far down.

Q. If a horse shows no disinclination to cross, how should the rider act?

A. He should leave him perfectly free, catching hold of his tail.

Q. In what formation do horses cross best?

A. When ridden in fours or twos, at about 10 yards distance and interval.

Q. Before a squadron crosses a river what should be done with regard to the banks if necessary and time permits?

A. A party should be detailed to prepare the banks for the horses.

Q. If the current is very swift what precautions should be taken?

A. A supplementary landing-place should be prepared about 200 yards down stream, in case any horse gets carried down and is unable to climb the bank.

Q. Preparatory to crossing a river, how should the squadron be formed up?

A. In columns of troops facing parallel to the stream, the flank about 10 yards from the bank.

Q. After the squadron is just formed up, how are the men of each troop divided up?

A. Into :—

(a) Good swimmers.

(b) Fair swimmers.

(c) Those who cannot swim.

Q. What happens next?

A. All off saddle, securing everything in the saddle blanket with the head rope.

Q. What do the non-swimmers do?

A. Load and man boats, or make rafts if required, and ferry them across by means of a tow-rope, if possible.

Q. What do the rest of the men do?

A. Strip, packing their clothing with saddlery.

Q. How do all horses cross?

A. In fours, led by four, selected for steadiness, and at 10 yards distance.

Q. How are any loose horses caught?

A. On reaching the landing-place, they are caught by the men who crossed in boats.

Q. How long should it take a well-trained squadron with the assistance of two boats to cross a river 50 yards wide?

A. About half an hour.

## Duties in Aid of the Civil Power.

Q. What should be observed most carefully when called out in aid of the civil power?

A. Good temper.

Q. When cavalry is called out in aid of the civil power what are the general principles that should be borne in mind?

A. It is comparatively easy to prevent a crowd from assembling in any open space, but very difficult to disperse it without injury when once it has assembled. To prevent a crowd from assembling cavalry must be kept on the move.

Q. What is the best formation in streets?

A. Sections.

Q. What should the pace be as a rule?

A. The walk.

Q. If the crowd become troublesome what should be done?

A. The pace should be increased to a steady trot, care being taken that the men ride close and do not open out.

Q. What should be carefully prevented?

A. On no account should anyone be allowed to get between the files.

Q. Should swords be drawn?

A. Always, but if temporarily returned they should be secured by tucking the sword knot under the waist belt or passing

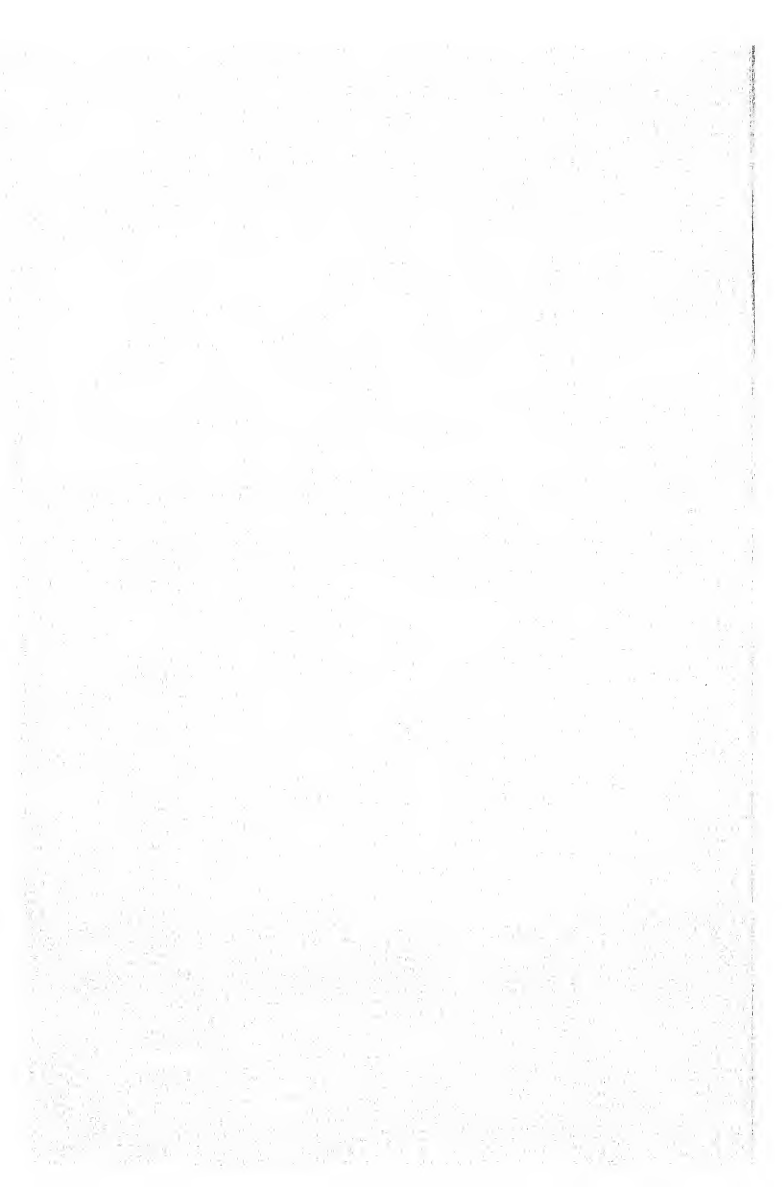
the loop of the knot over the bridle hand, or in some other way.

Q. How should lances be kept?

A. At the Carry.

Q. May the men be cloaked?

A. It is very undesirable, but if compelled to do so owing to the severity of the weather, cloaks should be taken off, and left in some safe place, as soon as the party is likely to be surrounded by a crowd.



357.2

Call No. GAL

Accession No.

9437

Title Tactical Questions And  
Answers On Cavalry Training

Author

Gall, H.R. Capt. 1907.

BORROWER'S  
NO.DATE  
LOANEDBORROWER'S  
NO.DATE  
LOANEDFOR CONSULTATION  
ONLY